

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. By this amendment, Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-26, and 40-46 have been amended, claims 8, 21 and 27-39 have been cancelled, and new claims 47-53 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-26 and 40-53 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, the amendments to the claims were made to improve the readability and clarity of the claims and not for any reason related to patentability. Each pending claim is in condition for allowance over the cited art because one or more elements of each pending claim is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-46 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Layman*, U.S. Patent No. 5,263,174. The rejection is herein respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 14, 40, 47 and 53 include one or more limitations that are not taught or suggested by *Layman*. All of the claims are directed to automatically re-constructing a configuration command that was used to configure a network device. The configuration command is re-constructed based on a linear command regeneration template and based on data that was stored in a configuration database during parsing and processing of the configuration command. The cited references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

As explained in the current specification at Page 1, lines 19-23, a network device, such as a router, is configured based on information derived from parsing the command elements of a configuration command. The particular configuration state obtained by

executing the configuration command is stored in a configuration database. (Page 2, lines 1-5).

As described at Page 12, line 34 – Page 13, line 14, as part of the process of parsing the configuration command, a linear command regeneration template for that configuration command is written to a file. This linear command regeneration template can be subsequently used to automatically regenerate the configuration command using data stored in the configuration database.

That is, when a network device is configured by a configuration command, configuration information is stored in a configuration database, and a linear command regeneration template is created and stored for that configuration command. At a later time, the configuration command can be automatically re-constructed by using the stored linear command regeneration template and the information that was stored in the configuration database.

The independent claims of the present invention also require that the linear command regeneration template include at least one linear node template. Each linear node template in a linear command regeneration template corresponds to a command element of the configuration command that was used to configure the network device.

The claims of the present application are directed to accessing the configuration data stored in the configuration database to automatically reconstruct the command or commands that were used to configure the network device. In contrast, *Layman* is directed to an interactive method for a user to select a menu choice by matching each letter typed by the user as it is entered. In *Layman*, as letters are typed, they are determined by any matching or

sorting method to match portions of the items in a list. (Col. 2, lns 30-34). The entry of each successive letter causes the displayed list of possible entries to be reduced to reflect the restricted range of entries which may match the fragment which has been entered so far. (Col. 2, lns 36-40). As specifically taught at Col. 4, lns 20-29, a user input is required.

This is completely different from the claimed invention. All of the claims of the present application are directed to automatically re-constructing the configuration command that was used to configure a network device. The configuration command is re-constructed based on a linear command regeneration template and based on data that was stored in a configuration database during parsing and processing of the configuration command. No user input is required, the process is automatic. Each possible value of a command element is represented by a separate branch in a linear node template. The linear node templates are used to match command elements of a configuration command with data stored in a configuration database, and are not used interactively.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for independent claims 1, 14, and 40. New independent claims 47 and 53 include limitations similar to those in claims 1, 14 and 40, and are likewise patentable over the cited prior art. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-26, 41-46, and 48-52 all include the limitations of the independent claims by virtue of their dependence. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to the independent claims.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims recite additional limitations that independently render them patentable over the cited art.

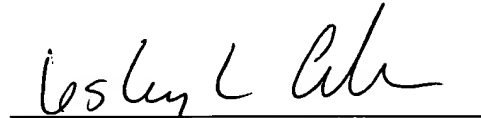
For example, as required in the dependent claims, each linear node template may have a begin option node coupled to a plurality of branches, each branch representing a different possible value of a command element of the configuration command. (Page 3, lines 20-26; Page 9, lines 12-21). *Layman* does not disclose any type of begin option node. The sections of *Layman* cited in the Office Action merely teach a heading for a list of words. The begin option node of the present invention is linked to branches that correspond to the different possible values of the command elements of a configuration command.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Lesley L. Coulson

Reg. No. 46,642

Date: June 14, 2004

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, CA 95125
(408) 414-1210
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

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on June 14, 2004

by 